

**House International Relations Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats**  
**Statement of Chairman Elton Gallegly**

**Markup of H. Res. 195**

April 26, 2005

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up two resolutions related to the victory of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of our allies in the European theater during World War II.

The first item on the agenda is H. Res. 195, a resolution introduced by Rep. Jack Kingston which recognizes the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Western Bohemia by American forces.

I strongly support and am a cosponsor of H. Res. 195, which recognizes the extraordinary sacrifice by American soldiers to free Western Bohemia from Nazi control. This was the last major offensive undertaken in Europe during World War II. This campaign was led by General George Patton and involved 18 division and 500,000 men. It resulted in the liberation of Pilsen, in what was then known as Czechoslovakia, on May 5, 1945.

In honor of the liberation of their city, the citizens of Pilsen will be dedicating a statute of General Patton on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of their city and all of Western Bohemia.

I will not be offering any amendments to H. Res. 195. However, after discussing the matter with Mr. Kingston and with his concurrence, by unanimous consent, I will be changing the title of the resolution so that it is more consistent with the language contained in the resolution. The new title, which is found in your markup folder, focuses on the liberation of Western Bohemia and the continued friendship between the people of the United States and the people of the Czech Republic. Under the House Rules, changes in the title take place upon the approval of the legislation.

I urge the passage of H. Res. 195 and, at this time, I would like to turn to Congressman Wexler for a statement.